

**CHILD CARE LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

11 September 2008

Cannon Health Building 288 North 1460 West, Room 114
Salt Lake City, Utah

Members Present:

Dale Smith; Diane Wilkinson; Michael Libeck; George Garff; David Rothschild; Susan Williams-Ashby; Carol Thompson, and Christiana Peterson.

Members Absent:

Susan Cochella; Wendy Hobson-Rohrer; Carol Holcombe.

Staff Present:

Teresa Whiting; Jessica Strout; Joyce Hasting; Lynda Worthington; Karrie Phillips; Donna Thomas; Joan Isom and Sherri Lizotte.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes:

Since there was a quorum present, past minutes were reviewed. Mr. Rothschild moved to approve the minutes from March 13, 2008 and Ms. Wilkinson seconded. The committee unanimously voted for approval to the meeting minutes of March 13, 2008. Mr. Rothschild moved to approve the minutes from May 8, 2008 and Mr. Libeck seconded. The committee unanimously voted for approval to the meeting minutes of May 8, 2008.

Mr. Rothschild pointed out errors in the minutes from July 10, 2008 meeting. Mr Garff moved to approve the minutes as corrected, and Ms Williams-Ashby seconded. The committee unanimously voted for approval to the meeting minutes of July 10, 2008.

2. Old Business:

Ms Whiting stated that she met with representatives from the Department of Workforce Services and the State Office of Education to discuss the proposal of eliminating the availability of voluntary licenses and certificates for those caring for less than five children in their homes. Since, without a license or certificate those providers would be ineligible for DWS subsidy payments, everyone agreed it is in the best of interest of the children to continue to offer the voluntary licenses and certificates.

3. New Business:

Ms. Whiting reported that the new rules for in-home providers are in effect. Karrie Phillips has finished statewide training on the new rules. Those trainings were well attended and

received. Karrie is now providing on-going training on current rules. This training is offered statewide at no cost to providers.

Mr. Smith stated that he observed one of Karrie's trainings and was very impressed with the training and the opportunity for Spanish-speaking providers to receive translation through headphones.

Ms. Whiting stated that the proposed new rules for License Exempt and Background Screening have been filed. Public comments will be received through September 30, 2008. Both the Salt Lake Tribune and KSL radio had some coverage of the background screening rules. So far the Bureau has received one comment on the proposed Exemption Rule and two comments on the proposed Background Screening rule.

Ms. Williams-Ashby asked if the Bureau is still supporting the proposed background screening rule changes. Ms. Whiting replied that the public comment period is not over, and we will not be able to make a statement about any changes to the Bureau's position until we have seen all of the public comments. Mr. Smith stated that he read the newspaper article and he saw no opposition to the proposed changes to the Background Screening rule in the article.

Mr. Rothschild asked if the proposed rules will go into effect 30 days after end of the public comment period. Ms. Whiting answered that was possible but the effective date depended on the comments and any possible revisions. Ms. Whiting said she will e-mail public comments to committee members. Mr. Smith and Mr. Rothschild were in favor of receiving the public comments.

Ms. Whiting addressed Mr. Rothschild's previous question about annual training for substitute caregivers. The Bureau's child care center Rule Interpretation Manual has been amended to say that substitutes need to complete annual training if they work an average of ten hours per week or more, as averaged over a three month period.

Mr. Smith asked if there are any comments from the committee or any issues that need to be raised by the committee. There were none and Mr. Smith opened the meeting for public comments.

4. Public Comments:

Ms. Whiting stated that she and Joyce Hasting just got back from the NARA conference, which is the National Association for Regulatory Administration. Two exciting items from the conference were:

1. NARA has a training curriculum for licensors and now they are working on a national credential for licensors. It is similar to the CDA for providers. Joyce has signed up to participate in their beta testing of the training curriculum that is being done through

the University of Main.

2. Oregon has implemented a quality rating system using criteria that is already assessed during a licensing inspection or could be assessed through a paperwork review. It is a totally voluntary program for providers who are going above and beyond minimal licensing standards. Quality ratings of providers who participate are made available to the public on the licensing website. This could be implemented in Utah. When Ms. Whiting has a more detailed draft of possible options she will bring it back to the Advisory Committee for future discussion.

Cathy Anderson, representing Utah Private Child Care Associations and ABC Great Beginnings Child Care Centers, stated that as she has participated in verifications visits in other states with rating systems and it is a positive thing. Other states also integrate the ratings into their subsidy payments. Ms. Whiting stated that this possibility could be discussed with Ms. Rasmussen and the Office of Child Care Advisory Committee also. Ms. Anderson stated she thought this could be a great incentive for centers, especially since it gives them money to improve their programs. She has seen this result in quality improvements.

Mr. Smith asked what the committee members thought of the idea of pursuing such a rating system. Mr. Garff stated that to do something like that would be wonderful, especially with it being voluntary. He stated that he liked the idea that as the number or points go up, the subsidy gets greater. Mr. Smith stated it appears the committee supports the idea of looking at a rating system.

Ms. Williams-Ashby wanted to know if anyone had been hurt by the new subsidy rate that has gone into effect. She stated she has lost 50% of clients. Ms. Whiting stated that anyone with a concern about subsidy issues should bring that to the Office of Child Care Advisory Committee since it is the Department of Workforce Services that administers the subsidy program.

Mr. Smith asked if there were other issues that should come before this committee. Ms. Wilkinson stated that her son was working for CCPDI and was getting the Career Ladder monies out to providers much faster and is working on other improvements.

Mr. Smith stated that, for years, many of us saw child care as a disorganized group of people. It seems to him that, over the last few years, child care is coming together as a unified group. He feel that the Office of Child Care, the Bureau of Child Care Licensing and child care provider organizations within our state are now working together and this cooperation benefits the children.

Ms. Petersen stated that she had attended one of the trainings done by Karrie Phillips and that she really appreciated Karrie's knowledge and explanations. Ms. Petersen stated that she is looking forward to the other trainings that Karrie will be doing. Ms. Wilkinson stated that she has also attended one of the trainings and she also thought it was very well done.

Mr. Smith requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rothschild seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned.